

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00462 111222Z

46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 SAJ-01 /075 W

----- 131034

R 111128Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2287

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0462

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LE PLO XF

SUBJ: ARAFAT ALLEGEDLY OPTIMISTIC RE PEACE PROSPECTS

1. IN DISCUSSION EVENING JAN 10 WITH DCM ON CURRENT AREA SITUATION, LOCAL PALESTINIAN BUSINESSMAN WHO IS KNOWN TO BE FRIEND OF PLO LEADER YASSER ARAFAT MAINTAINED ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON BESIDE HIMSELF WHOM HE KNEW WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PEACE. IN RESPONSE DCM QUERY SOURCE NAMED ARAFAT AND EXPLAINED THAT ARAFAT OPTIMISTIC BECAUSE HE CONVINCED US AND THE SOVIETS HAD AGREED SITUATION HAD GONE FAR ENOUGH AND HAD TO BE SETTLED. ARAFAT WAS ALSO REASSURED BY INFORMATION FROM EGYPTIANS CONCERNING US INTENTIONS. WHEN DCM NOTED THAT PALESTINIANS AT PRESENT WERE CRITICIZING EGYPTIANS SOURCE EXPLAINED THAT ARAFAT HIMSELF WAS MODERATE AND REALISTIC BUT COULD NOT AFFORD AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME TO HAVE DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH REJECTIONIST GROUP ALTHOUGH HE FULLY INTENDED TO DO SO AT APPROPRIATE TIME. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE WERE ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS MADE BY ELEMENTS WITHIN THE MOVEMENT WITH WHICH ARAFAT DID NOT AGREE BUT WHICH FOR TACTICAL

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00462 111222Z

REASONS HE COULD NOT OPPOSE.

GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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